GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:59
ANSWERED ON:25.04.2016
Recovery of Stolen Antiquities
Joshi Shri Pralhad Venkatesh

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken steps to recover stolen antiquities from India that are presently abroad and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government has an estimate of the number of antiques that are currently illegally being smuggled outside the country and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether in the past three years these stolen antiquities have been returned to India and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether during the past three years cases of smuggling of Indian antiquities have been recorded and if so, the details thereof along with the cases reported during each of the last three years ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE, CULTURE AND TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) AND MINISTER OF STATE, CIVIL AVIATION

(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

(a) Archaeological Survey of India is making all efforts to recover stolen antiquities from abroad. Till date the Archaeological Survey of India has recovered eighteen numbers of antiquities from various countries. Annexure I.

(b) Presently there is no estimate available with the Archaeological Survey of India, for the number of the antiquities that are currently illegally being smuggled outside the country, however, Central Bureau of Investigation has registered one case in connection with Indian antiquities stolen and sold in foreign countries since 2000 to 2016.

(c) Six numbers of antiquities have been recovered from abroad during the last three years. Annexure II.

(d) Presently there is no estimate available with the Archaeological Survey of India, for the number of the antiquities that are currently illegally being smuggled outside the country, however, Central Bureau of Investigation has registered one case in connection with Indian antiquities stolen and sold in foreign countries since 2000 to 2016.

Annexure I
ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY PART TO (a) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.59 FOR 25.04.2016
LIST OF RETRIEVAL OF ANTIQUITIES FROM FOREIGN COUNTRIES.
Sl.
No. Description of object Provenance Country from which retrieved Date/
year of Retrieval Means of Retrieval Present location
1. Sawn stucco Head Nalanda, Bihar U.K. and France 1976 Voluntarily returned by British Museum, London and Madam Krishna Robound of France Patna Circle
2. Nataraja of Chola period Sivapuram Tamil Nadu U.S.A. 1986 Through Court Case in U.K and U.S.A. Tamil Nadu Government
3. Terracotta Yakashi of Tamluk West Bengal U.K. 1986 Court case was instituted in London but out of Court settlement was reached for retrieval CAC, Purana Qila, N. Delhi
4. Nataraja of Chola period Tiruvilakkadi, Tamil Nadu U.S.A 1986 Kimbell Art Museum returned the idol after Indemnity agreement was signed by the GOI on 12.8.1985
5. Nataraja of Chola period Pathur, Tamil Nadu U.K. 1991 Retrieved through Court case instituted in London High Court and appeal in Royal Court of Justice at London. Tamil Nadu Government
6. Terracotta figures from Bhitargaon Utter Pradesh U.S.A 1991 The figure was returned voluntarily by Los Angeles Country Museum. CAC, Purana Qila, N. Delhi
7. Amin pillars Amin, Haryana U.K 1979-80 Voluntarily returned National Museum, New Delhi
8. Image of Buddha Bodhgaya, Bihar U.S.A 1999 Voluntarily returned without seeking any monitory compensation by Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York CAC, Purana Qila, N. Delhi

9. Sculpture of Krishnajanma Dhubela Museum Chattarpur (M.P.) U.S.A 1999 Returned through the mediation of Consulate General of India, New York. Dhubela Museum, Chattarpur (M.P)
10. Paintings i) Chandigarh Museum
ii) Chandigarh Museum U.S.A

U.S.A 10-1-1990

4-3-1979 Voluntarily returned

Voluntarily returned Chandigarh Museum

Chandigarh Museum
11. Image of Lakulisa Jageswar U.S.A 2000 Voluntarily returned after negotiations by the Consulate General of India, Chichgo with Mrs. Marilynn Alsdorf. CAC, Purana Qila, N. Delhi
12. Decorative Wooden panels (7 nos.) Rajasthan Holand 2001 Voluntarily returned
CAC, Purana Qila, N. Delhi
13. Yogini Vrishanana ---- Paris 2013 Return on initiative of the then Minister of Culture National Museum
14. Nataraja Tamil Nadu Australia 2014 Voluntarily returned Under the custody of Idol Wing Tamil Nadu
15. Ardhanariswara Tamil Nadu Australia 2014 Voluntarily returned Under the custody Idol Wing, Tamil Nadu
16. Parrot Lady Madhya Pradesh Canada 2015 Voluntarily returned CAC, Purana Qila, N. Delhi
17. Mahisamardini J&K Germany 2015 Voluntarily returned CAC, Purana Qila, N. Delhi
18. Uma Parameshwari Tamil Nadu Singapore 2015 Voluntarily returned CAC, Purana Qila, New Delhi

ANNEXURE II

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY PART TO (C) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.59 FOR 25.04.2016
LIST OF RETRIEVAL OF ANTIQUITIES FROM FOREIGN COUNTRIES DURING LAST THREE YEARS 2013-2015 AND CURRENT YEAR UPTO 31st MARCH, 2016

Sl.No. Description of object Provenance Country from which retrieved Date/
year of Retrieval Means of Retrieval Present location
1. Yogini Vrishanana ---- Paris 2013 Return on initiative of the then Minister of Culture National Museum
2. Nataraja Tamil Nadu Australia 2014 Voluntarily returned Under the custody of Idol Wing, Tamil Nadu
3. Ardhanariswara Tamil Nadu Australia 2014 Voluntarily returned Under the custody of Idol Wing, Tamil Nadu
4. Parrot Lady Madhya Pradesh Canada 2015 Voluntarily returned CAC, Purana Qila, N. Delhi

5. Mahisamardini J&K Germany 2015 Voluntarily returned CAC, Purana Qila, N. Delhi

6. Uma Parameshwari Tamil Nadu Singapore 2015 Voluntarily returned CAC, Purana Qila, N. Delhi